

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

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P R 152014Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

JCS

CSAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120512

SECDEF FOR ISA/DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN, US

SUBJECT: C-130B AIRCRAFT FOR SINGAPORE

REF: CINCPAC 100300Z MARCH 76 AND PREVIOUS

1. TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE IN ACHIEVING
ITS MILITARY AIRLIFT OBJECTIVES, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
IS WILLING TO WITHDRAW TWO C-130B AIRCRAFT FROM
OUR INVENTORY AND OFFER THEM FOR FMS
CASH SALE TO GOS AT THE MINIMUM PRICE CONSISTENT WITH
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APPLICABLE DOD INSTRUCTION AND NORMAL FMS PRICING PRACTICES.

2. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE EFFORT TO PROVIDE C-130S TO THE GOS HAS BEEN A PROTRACTED AFFAIR INVOLVING A MAJOR EFFORT. IN APPROVING THE REQUEST, THE US SEEKS TO PROVIDE A CLEAR INDICATION TO THE GOS THAT THE US IS FULLY AWARE OF SINGAPORE'S VITAL SECURITY CONCERNS AND THAT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL INTERESTS, AND COMMON REGIONAL GOALS, WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP SINGAPORE ACHIEVE ITS SECURITY OBJECTIVES. IN TURN, IT IS ASSUMED THAT SINGAPORE WILL BE ABLE TO RECIPROCATATE IN SIMILAR FASHION TO REQUESTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS AND DEFENSE OBJECTIVES. WHILE THIS OFFER IS NOT SPECIFICALLY TIED TO ANY PARTICULAR REQUEST WE HAVE WITH THE GOS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE EMBASSY WILL TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER TO GAIN HEADWAY ON PENDING REQUESTS.

3. FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETARY (P AND B) PURPOSES, THE FLYAWAY COST OF EACH AIRCRAFT IS ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 2.6 MILLION DOLS. COST IS FOR OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY RECONDITIONING WHICH GOS MAY OR MAY NOT DESIRE. FLIGHT DELIVERY BY USAF CREWS IS ESTIMATED AT 100,000 DOLS EACH. COST OF SUPPORT EQUIPMENT (SE) AND SPARE PARTS FOR BOTH AIRCRAFT IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 1.4 MILLION DOLS AND 1.8 MILLION DOLS, RESPECTIVELY, BUT COULD VARY CONSIDERABLY DEPENDING ON ACTUAL GOS REQUIREMENTS IN LIGHT OF ASSETS ALREADY ON HAND. FYI: LOCKHEED AIR SERVICES SINGAPORE (LASS) HAS INFORMED DSAA THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRACT DIRECTLY WITH GOS FOR INTERIM USE BY RSAF OF LASS FACILITIES AND SERVICES PENDING ACHIEVEMENT OF RSAF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF C-130B'S. END FYI. THE ESTIMATED COST OF TRAINING TO INCLUDE 4 AIRCREWS AND 21 MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL IS 1.0 MILLION DOLS. FYI: MAINTENANCE TRAINING COSTS ARE BASED ON ZERO C-130B CAPABILITY. INsofar AS LASS CAPABILITIES TO ASSIST IN THIS AREA ARE UNCONFIRMED; THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED IN THE ESTIMATE. END FYI.

4. C-130B AIRCRAFT ARE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY SUPPORTABLE ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS THROUGH FY 1985.
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5. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT THIS OFFER TO THE GOS NOW, UNLESS EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TIMING CONSIDERATIONS IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE RELOCATION INITIATIVES REQUIRE OTHER HANDLING. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT REDUCTION OF C-130B FLYAWAY COST BELOW 2.6 MILLION DOLS IS NOT, REPEAT NOT FEASIBLE. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO GOS THAT THE PRICE ESTABLISHED FOR THE C-130B'S IS

A HIGHLY FAVORABLE ONE AND THAT GOS IS BEING GIVEN SPECIAL
CONSIDERATION IN THIS REGARD. THIS TOGETHER WITH POSSIBLE
ECONOMIES IN SPARE-PARTS AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT SHOULD
MEET GOS NEEDS VERY WELL. KISSINGER

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